

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/038,152

Examiner

Jerry T Rahll

Applicant(s)

ROCKWELL ET AL.

Art Unit

2874

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's Amendment received 12 July 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7, 9-13 and 15-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
**AKM ENAYET ULLAH**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Jerry T Rahll



### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. The application has been amended as follows:
3. Claims 20-37 (previously withdrawn) are canceled to put the application in condition for allowance.
4. In Claim 1, "...splicing a primary-first-optical-circulator output port to a first 50:50 6 coupler input port of a 50:50 coupler..." is amended to read, "...splicing a primary-first-optical-circulator output port to a first 50:50 coupler input port of a 50:50 coupler..." The inclusion of the numeral "6" appears to have been a typographical error.
5. Further in Claim 1, "...employing a secondary-second-optical circulator output port as a 12 second-optical fiber output port..." is amended to read, "...employing a secondary-second-optical circulator output port as a second-optical fiber output port..." The inclusion of the numeral "12" appears to have been a typographical error.
6. Further in Claim 1, "...allowing interference products of said reflected signals to propagate 23 back toward said first and second optical circulators..." is amended to read, "...allowing interference products of said reflected signals to propagate back toward said first and second optical circulators..." The inclusion of the numeral "23" appears to have been a typographical error.

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7. In Claim 3, “The method for processing an optical communications signal as 2 recited in claim 1, wherein said step of allowing comprises allowing 3 interference products...” is amended to read, “The method for processing an optical communications signal as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of allowing comprises allowing interference products...” The inclusion of the numerals “2” and “3” appear to have been a typographical error.

8. In Claim 11, “... a first optical fiber, having a first optical fiber length coupled to said 18 first 50:50 coupler output port...” is amended to read, “... a first optical fiber, having a first optical fiber length coupled to said first 50:50 coupler output port...” The inclusion of the numeral “18” appears to have been a typographical error.

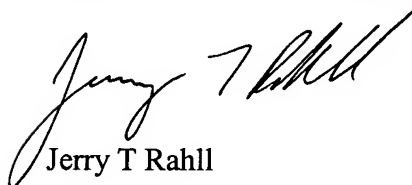
9. Claim 13 is amended to read, “The apparatus for processing an optical communications signal as recited in claim 12, utilized as a wavelength division multiplexer / demultiplexer.” The inclusion of the numerals “2” and “3” appear to have been a typographical error.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry T Rahll whose telephone number is (571) 272-2356. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30), with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jerry T Rahll



AKM ENAYET ULLAH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER